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University of Montana

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MEDIA RELEASE

THE MONTANA WRITING PROJECT:
TEACHING TEACHERS TO TEACH

braun/rv
1/7/82
state + weeklies

MISSOULA--

The Montana Writing Project will be in its fifth year this summer as 20 elementary, junior high and high school teachers from across the state gather at the University of Montana for four weeks to share their expertise on writing.

The program is centered around teachers learning from other teachers. "Our philosophy is that the best teacher of teachers is another teacher, and that the best teachers of writing are those who write," Richard R. Adler, UM professor of English and director of the Project, said.

Each day the teachers spend half their time teaching each other. "It's not just teachers talking at other teachers," Adler said. "They actually go through the teaching and writing processes themselves." During the workshops they exchange views on writing techniques and how to teach writing. The other half of the day is spent doing their own writing and editing, polishing and critiquing each other's work.

According to Adler, the new video films made for the National Writing Project will help teachers examine the writing process. The films, released in December, show Margaret Grant, a third-grade teacher in Missoula, and six other teachers in different parts of the country, teaching their students to write.

"To have these kinds of teaching practices on film where teachers can actually view them, examine them, and learn from them is fairly new in the teaching of writing," Adler said. The films will be used this summer during the Montana Writing Project Institute and are available now for use in teacher training workshops.

Graduates of the Writing Project Institute are known as teacher consultants and are qualified to conduct writing workshops for teachers in their districts

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WRITING PROJECT--add one

and to give teachers individual help in areas such as grading practices, proof-reading, stages of development in writing, use of the newspaper in teaching writing, integrating writing and reading, and different formats for writing.

The Montana Writing Project has published a directory that lists 72 teacher consultants in 42 Montana cities and the kinds of workshops they give. Workshop topics include writing clear assignments, use of the journal, pre-writing emphasis, poetry writing, drama in writing, student publications, student-generated writing, dialogue writing, the research paper, making books, sentence combining, peer editing, revision, visual arts in writing, biography, character sketches, and grammar and writing.

Inquiries about contacting teacher consultants or about participating in the project can be directed to Adler, Beverly Chin, workshop director, or Henry Harrington, writing director, at the UM English department.

Funds for the Writing Project are provided by the UM Foundation Excellence Fund, the UM Center for Continuing Education, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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EDITORS: Teachers in your area who are graduates of the Montana Writing Project are indicated below.

Belgrade - Roxanne M. Hoblitt, Belgrade High School

Belt - Therese Greenwood, Belt High School

Billings- Jane Urbaska, 2920 Glacier Drive, Billings
Suzanne Elliot, Lockwood Elementary
Lou Ann Ivanish Foley, Billings West High
Larry Porter, Billings West High School

Bozeman - Nancy J. Vandeventer, Bozeman Jr. High School

Broadus - Donald Bidwell, Powder River County High School

Browning - Jeff Taylor, Browning Jr. High
Alice Wagner, Browning Jr. High

Butte - Carol Anne Miller, CEP Center

Cascade - Kevin Krumvieda, Cascade High School

Conrad - Charles Powers, Conrad High School

Darby - Brian Bechtold, Darby High School

Deer Lodge - Billy D. Sager, Powell County High School

Eureka - Jan Bertelsen-James, Eureka Elementary School

Forsyth - Dwayne Albertson, Forsyth High School

Glasgow - Bruce McMorris, Glasgow Senior High School

Glendive - Virginia Egli, Washington Middle School

Great Falls - Mary Fagenstrom, Great Falls High School

Hall - Jeff Pratt, Hall Elementary

Hamilton - John R. Corwin, Hamilton High School

Hardin - Shirley M. Olson, Laurel High School

Harlowton - Phillip Koterba, Harlowton High School

Havre - Despina Margoris, Havre High School

Helena - Dale Waniata, Helena High School
Jean Kimble, Jefferson School
Kay McKenna, Broadwater School

Kalispell - Gary Burt, Flathead High School
Maureen Danner, Kalispell Jr. High
Terri Funk, Edgerton School
Nancy Allen Murn, Flathead High School

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Continued: List of teachers who are graduates of the Montana Writing Project

Laurel - Shirley M. Olson, Laurel High School

Lewistown - Linda Edwards, Lewistown Jr. High

Libby - Joyce Brant, Plummer School

Livingston - Billie J. Fleming, St. Mary's School
Suzanne Goodman, Park Senior High

Malta - Dale Edmister, Malta High School

Outlook - Steven Smith, Outlook High School

Plentywood - Jane Prescott, Plentywood High School

Polson - Malcom J. Swan, Polson Middle School

Scobey - George Rider, Scobey Public Schools

Shepherd - Mike Colbrese, Shepherd High School
Stacy Flaherty, Shepherd High School

St. Ignatius - Marshall Thompson, St. Ignatius High School

Stevensville - Mark A. Hansen, Stevensville High School
Sally Hickman, Stevensville Elementary
Kristan Smyka, Hawthorne Elementary, Missoula

Whitefish - Ray Boksich, Muldown School
Brenda Moen, Central School
Jael Prezeau, Muldown Elementary